



Fresno School Board Approves Budget Cuts

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Fresno - Fresno school board members met late into the night on Wednesday. It took nearly 6 hours, and in the end they voted 4-3 to approve a budget proposal that calls for the elimination of 522 teaching positions.

Here's the two scenarios the district is facing.

One, a budget gap of \$27 million... that's only if California voters pass a tax extension in June.

If not, then the second scenario would put the district nearly \$71 million in the red.

Nearly 300 teachers and their supporters packed the district headquarters last night.

The crowd overflowed into the lobby and hallways.

Dozens of people gave emotional and passionate pleas, begging board members not to go through with the cuts, but the majority voted to go through with them.

Here's what's will likely happen:

522 teaching positions, including more than 100 sociology teachers, will be eliminated.

That affects classes like home ec, business, and adult education.

147 elementary school teacher jobs would be cut.

That means class size would increase in grades K-3 from 24 to 30 students.

Also, employees would take a 5% salary pay cut.

257 pink slips will go out to teachers on March 15 – the deadline for the district to serve layoff notices.

If voters approve a statewide tax extension in June, district officials say the layoffs won't have to happen.



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